

F. G. Miller senior girls Crusaders captured the S.P.A.A. basketball banner and advanced to Zones.....Page 2

Meet the Bantam Avalanche, Zone 2 representatives at Provincials in High Level.....Page 3

Three suspects charged after police pursuit at Fishing Lake Settlement.....Page 2

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Jean Ockerman photo

ELK POINT PEEWEE AVALANCHE looks back on a great season after winning their final round robin game at the 'D' Provincials in Boyle, where an all-out effort gave them a 9-6 victory over Tofield.

Two Provincials down, Bantam Avs head for third this weekend

DOUG BASSETT
AND CONTRIBUTORS
Review Sports

Elk Point Avalanche has one last chance for a provincial medal, with the Bantam Avs headed for High Level this weekend for the 'D' Provincials.

We all want to wish the bantam team good luck. A terrific job by the coaching staff, Kristoff Ludlage, Greg Van Maarion and Dean Rogan and by manager Melinda Henderson has them all set to give their best. Hope you enjoyed reading the team's bios on Page 3 as much as I did writing them. Let's go Avalanche !!!

A provincial win would be just what the Bantams need after a losing the overall league championship to Provost in a pair of very close games last week, as the flu took its toll on the team. Thursday's game saw Dylan 'the Destroyer' Ference sitting this one out, as captain Nicholas 'Sparky' Anderson started the scoring with a goal and an assist, Chase 'Chopper' Dorey scoring the second of the game, and Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage

adding a goal and two assists, with another assist coming from Wolke 'Wolfman' Cueva. The goal by 'Hot Wheels' tied the score at 3-3 midway through the game, with Provost sending the winner into the twine with just over four minutes left before the final buzzer.

Saturday's game again started with nine skaters, this time with 'Hank the Tank' Rogal on the sick list. Team manager Melinda Henderson reported that Brad 'Diesel' Canning got boarded and then cross-checked while he was down, so he ended up leaving the bench early in the first. "This put us down to eight skaters. Nick, Paige (Henderson), Brad and Dylan, along with Hank, were all fighting the flu." Fortunately, goalie Colton Van Maarion was healthy and had what Henderson called "an AMAZING game" stopping 47 of 50 shots. "Our team faced a bench of 16 skaters and they shortened their bench by nearly half. These kids played their hearts out, but under the circumstances with the flu bug and strep throat hitting the team, they just couldn't pull it off. And, the Provost players had to

work for every goal they got; they certainly never had it handed to them. As the team manager, I have to say I am so proud of what this small bench of players and their coaches accomplished this year!" That game ended with a 3-2 score in Provost's favour, the 'Wolfman', assisted by the 'Chopper' and by 'Sparky' off an assist by 'Hot Wheels' in the Elk Point markers.

Atom Avalanche

After winning Tier II North division a week ago, Atom No. 2 faced off against Marwayne Sled Dogs for the league championship. Elk Point had home ice advantage in the series, due to more points throughout the year. Elk Point knew they had to play a solid game if they were going to take home the banner. It wasn't until the second period that Elk Point got on the scoreboard, with Landon Malachowski putting one in the net from Jager Fontaine and Kaleb Flamond. Before the period was over, Jager Fontaine buried another one from Ceejay Quinney. Elk Point held onto the lead until late in the third before Marwayne tied it up 2-2. (Continued on Page 5)

RCMP gets input on priorities

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point RCMP gained input from a cross-section of the community last Tuesday evening at a town hall meeting aimed at helping the detachment to determine policing priorities for the coming year.

Sgt. Barry LaRocque introduced detachment members Cpl. Bobby Burgess, Cst. Cindy Tymensen and Cst. Anthony Unger, said the mission of the evening was "to provide information, look at what has been done and "take your input and come back with a product."

The detachment staff includes three additional constables and their support staff, and is able to "throw a lot of bodies and equipment at issues when needed. We can get helicopters here pretty quickly." Those resources are especially valuable, he noted, because of the large volume of calls and the large area the detachment covers.

In 2015, the detachment had 3,120 calls, including 736 from Elk Point, 628 from the area of the County of St. Paul that is within the detachment jurisdiction, 320 from Fishing Lake Métis Settlement and 1,215 from Frog Lake First Nations, with 423 of those resulting in charges, Sgt. LaRocque said. "We're busy enough." A total of 320 calls dealt with assaults, 427 with person crimes and 654 were property complaints, he added, noting that there is "not a large issue with drugs" in Elk Point at the present time.

The sergeant and corporal said that members of the detachment spend considerable time inputting data, and "it takes 10 to 15 minutes to document any call, even a false alarm," of which there were 158 last year, along with 340 false 911 calls. Criminal code infractions totaled 1,375 in 2015, and there were 69 federal infractions.

With the two constables heading out on a call, Sgt. LaRocque asked for the community's concerns, which were carefully recorded by Cpl. Burgess.

With Frog Lake's calls far more numerous than those from Fishing Lake, one resident asked why Fishing Lake has a dedicated RCMP member, Cst. Unger, while Frog Lake does not. The Fishing Lake position and those in some, but not all, Métis Settlements, were the result of negotiations between the Alberta Métis Council and the province, and while Frog Lake formerly had a dedicated position paid for by the First Nation, limited resources did not allow this to continue.

An enhanced position costs a municipality, First Nation or Settlement about \$160,000 per year, but these have currently been put on hold, Sgt. LaRocque said, due to the shortage of available RCMP members.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Crusader girls claim senior S.P.A.A. banner

ERIC UPHAM
Review Contributor

The Senior High basketball season runs from late November until the end of March, and after seeing approximately three months of Sr. High Basketball action in the S.P.A.A. league, the action came to a pinnacle on Monday night.

On the boys' side, teams from Mallaig, Myrnam, Glendon, F. G. Miller, BCHS's junior

varsity team, Vilna, and Kihew Asiniy School of Saddle Lake competed all season in S.P.A.A. league play. In the girls' league this season, Mallaig, Glendon, Kihew Asiniy, BCHS JV and F. G. Miller were in competition for the S.P.A.A. championship.

Mallaig battled hard all season, dominating the league and going undefeated in all six of their games, while Glendon pushed through

the playoffs and battled to the finals despite finishing 3rd at 4-2 behind Myrnam at 5-1 in the league standings for the season.

The F. G. Miller Crusaders dominated the girls' side, winning all four games they played, followed by Glendon at 3-1 and Mallaig at 2-2. The difference in amount of games played between the boys' and girls' leagues was caused by the girls' league having two less teams than the boys' league.

On the boys' side, it came down to Mallaig and Glendon in the finals, and on the girls' side, it was F. G. Miller of Elk Point vs Glendon.

Mallaig boys came out on top to capture their first Senior S.P.A.A. Basketball banner in the school's history.

In the girls' final, F. G. Miller had a competitive game with Glendon, working hard to pull out a 47-29 victory. Coach Madi Novakowski talked about the season that her team has had leading up to the S.P.A.A. finals. "We attended five tournaments, placing second in four of them and first in one; we went undefeated in S.P.A.A. league play, which was great, and out of all of the games we played, we only lost four, which I'm proud to see. Last year was my first year coaching and we only had five girls, so we lost more games than we won last year, so it's been a good bounce back year. We brought in girls from J. R. Robson in Vermilion because they did not have a team this year, and they've really contributed to the team. We have a bright future with only two of our girls being grade 12s. I think we'll definitely compete at zones, it's going to be tough, but I think we can definitely win."

The 1A Boys Basketball Zones competition is being held in Glendon this year, and for the 1A girls it is in Vegreville. The local teams will meet teams from across the Zone to play for the Zones banner, and hopefully they will come out with a win and a berth to provincials.



Jean Ockerman photo

A BANNER YEAR! F. G. Miller senior girls Crusaders were thrilled to show off their S.P.A.A. Basketball banner after defeating Glendon 47 to 29 last Monday.

Shots fired, three charged

STAFF WRITERS

A pursuit that began in Fishing Lake Metis Settlement on March 5 ended with a shot fired at a police vehicle, a search for the suspects through bush, and three people eventually being charged in relation to the event.

On March 5 at 12:53 p.m., Elk Point RCMP members were dispatched to a complaint of a male pointing a firearm at two people near a residence on Fishing Lake Metis Settlement. On arriving at Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, the RCMP saw the suspect vehicle and pursued the suspect. The pursuit made its way north through Frog Lake First Nations but RCMP called off the chase over public safety concerns, as the vehicle's driving pattern were very erratic, according to a RCMP press release.

Another Elk Point member was doing patrols in the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement when the suspect vehicle went past him at an excessive rate of speed. The member turned around and tried to catch up to the suspect vehicle but saw a firearm pointed out the driver's side of the vehicle, after which a shot was fired at the police motor vehicle.

The suspect vehicle drove in the ditch, and three people, one male and two females, exited the vehicle and ran into the bush.

(Continued on Page 5)

Policing

(Continued from Front Page)

The lack of police presence in town and of "someone to go to with concerns" was brought to the table. The workload frequently takes members out of town, but the sergeant said he definitely wants to "bring back community policing" and increase visibility. Town Coun. Lorne Young complimented the sergeant on his efforts to date in this regard.

Those living on the western border of the detachment area expressed concern regarding the time it takes for officers to respond to a call. Sgt. LaRocque urged rural residents to "learn your green sign address" to speed this response in all areas, as this gives dispatchers a better idea of where a problem is occurring.

The Citizens On Patrol (COPS) program needs to be regenerated, one attendee said. Sgt. LaRocque said the program "has to be community driven. It was a pretty easy concept at one time, but it gets complicated (with new requirements). I'm more than willing to do my part."

More communication between the police and the public was also requested, with suggestions that social media and the newspaper could be used more to inform the public what is happening. This has also been discussed at Rural Crime Watch meetings, the sergeant noted, "but in the middle of a situation, we're focused on what we're doing."

More interaction with schools would also be a plus, and Sgt. LaRocque said that although a member is assigned to each school, "we're doing so much reactive stuff that we can't do much proactive. We need to be cloned." The members are doing drug talks, property crime exams and will be involved in the upcoming P.A.R.T.Y. Program, he said. "Obviously, we need to be in the schools."

Other attendees pointed out flaws with today's parenting and lack of discipline, and laws that protect the criminals rather than the innocent.

To sum it up, Sgt. LaRocque said that last year's performance plan priorities included traffic safety, property and auto theft and RCMP visibility. The group agreed that these are all still worthy priorities, with the gravel trucks speeding and their loads not always correctly tarped to prevent flying gravel, and trucks not stopping at the Highway 29 and 41 junction and the Murphy Road corner the major complaints regarding traffic safety. Education is key in property and vehicle theft, with everyone urged to lock buildings and vehicles securely and not to leave valuables in parked vehicles. Visibility and connecting with youth were also deemed important.

Asked, "what can we do to help you?" Sgt. LaRocque said, "Talk to us. Let us know what the problems are. We need the public to come forward."



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LICA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 2016
~Bonnyville Centennial Centre~
4313 - 50th Avenue, Bonnyville
6:30 pm Meet & Greet; 7:00 pm AGM
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Meet the Bantam Avalanche!

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Angus 'Micky' McFarlane

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Nicholas 'Sparky' Anderson

No off button on this heart and soul guy, he plays all out, all in, and only has one speed, fast and furious, an exceptional, talented player who lights it up every night, small and fearless, you can't measure the size of his heart.



Dylan 'the Destroyer' Ference

Don't mess with this guy he's solid as an oak tree, a heavy duty hitter, avid back checker, super penalty killer with a sizzling shot when he opens the bomb bay doors.



Wolke 'Wolfman' Cueva

Getting the call back up to the big league after a couple years in the minors, he has jumped right into the lineup just like he never left, contributes 100 per cent every game.



Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage

A late bloomer who blossomed into a real powerhouse and has been a real thorn in the opposition's side. Has a wicked torpedo of a shot, leads by example, very versatile on the back end or up front, either way he comes to play every day.



Chase 'Chopper' Dorey

Great size, this sharp shooting sniper honed his skills playing outdoors for years on the O.D.R. (Out Door Rink), now moved inside to the A.G.R. (A. G. Ross Arena) after signing a free agent big league contract.



'Silent Sam' Henderson

A very serious, steady and dedicated, tall, skinny and lanky player with a long reach who is not fancy or flashy but like a true trooper, he quietly goes about his business.



Bradley 'Diesel' Canning

Good corner man who likes to throw his weight around and dish out bone crushing body checks, has a smoking good shot and been known to play through a lot of pain.



Hank 'the Tank' Rogal

Steady as a rock, tough as nails, knows how to play smart, moves the puck well, takes very few risks, not one once of quit!

Best of luck in High Prairie!

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Wednesday, March 16

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Thursday, March 17

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Notice to Members:



NOTICE OF MEETING ZONE II REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE METIS NATION OF ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY, April 09, 2016 BONNYVILLE, ALBERTA

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Zone II Regional Council of the Metis Nation of Alberta, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Zone II Regional Council of the Metis Nation of Alberta, will be held on April 09, 2016 - at the French Cultural Centre, 4904-50 Street, Bonnyville, Alberta - commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Karen Collins
Karen Collins
President, Zone II Regional Council
Of the Metis Nation of Alberta
Signed on the 10th of March, 2016

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Pet Day at Jack and Jill Playschool



PET DAY at Jack and Jill Playschool saw pets as large as a St. Bernard puppy, as small as fish, and stuffed, join the youngsters last Thursday for a pair of show-and-tell sessions, with one small student even bringing along her Gido, Ray Damyluk, and a pair of very vocal lambs for the event.

EDITORIAL

History repeats

Thirty years ago this week, in 1986, our front page brought the news that Amoco Canada Petroleum was the first oil company operating in the area to take drastic measures in the wake of falling oil prices, shutting in all their producing wells in the Lindbergh oilfield.

We all thought the end of the world as we knew it was near at hand, and the long-time residents of the area said it served the oil companies right for coming to the community because those newcomers were just transients anyway.

Some were, but some are still here, and have weathered that and numerous other storms of bust and boom in the three decades since then. The lesson they learned was that oil prices, like the weather, runs in cycles, and that things do get better eventually.

And now, we're waiting for 'eventually,' once again.

RECREATION CORNER

Geese are here - is it spring yet?

JENA COLBOURNE
Recreation Director

Am I allowed to say it's spring yet??? I woke up to geese in my backyard today, so I think it's safe to pack up all the kids' winter gear and start buying the splash suits and rain boots. That's never backfired, right?!

From the Rec Department we are preparing for the nice weather by working on a "Block Party Policy". How to you make a party dull? Have a policy, right?! Ha Ha! I'm kidding, the policy is an official-sounding word that is there just to make sure everyone knows the rules, regulations, and are safe.

We're a community so we must still be courteous to our neighbours, like making sure everyone's down to enjoy some delicious baked beans and hot dogs! Here's your chance to speak up! What do you think is important when hosting a block party? Have you held a block party and something really great happened or something unexpected? Let us know.

The hope is to get this policy in place so community members can start throwing parties once the geese are here to stay. Email suggestions to recreation@elkpoint.ca or call/Text 780-207-5898. Don't forget to like us on Facebook.com/elkpointalberta for more updates and community news.

YOUR VIEWS

Laid off workers deserve respect

Dear Editor:

I happened to be in a local coffee spot and overheard a conversation that really rubbed me the wrong way. It was regarding "those guys in the oilfield" and the gist of the conversation was that "they" were overpaid, over-spending, show-offs who deserved to lose their jobs. And I've heard the same opinion on the John Gormley show several times, expressed with a lot of anger.

I don't get it. The numbers for Alberta were 86,000 jobs lost at this point. Jobs. That means employees, who, as far as I know, pay taxes without option - it's coming right off their cheque. So I checked around.

According to the Financial Post, the average oil-field wage was \$154,000 per year. Lotta money. Also a lot of taxes. And these guys, as wage earners, pay full rate - they do not get any write-offs. Do the math!

Alberta taxes were slightly less than Saskatchewan's, but if I ran the tax calculator right, at that wage, the federal and provincial taxes would amount to \$44,241 per year. About \$60,000 if that same wage was in Saskatchewan!

Now if there's been 86,000 people laid off in Alberta, if you add the ones lost in Saskatchewan, you can bet it's now close to 100,000. So 100,000 wages gone that used to be paying \$44,241 in taxes is \$4,424,000,000 in lost tax revenue. I had to turn my iPhone sideways to get that number to show up! That's four billion, with a "b"! Now while some of these guys were maybe overspending, they were also contributing a lot towards funding each and every government service. Not to mention the fact that if they did buy a big boat and a big camper and a big truck, they bought

it from a local business, plated it at a local business, bought gas for it at a local business, took it to a local park, paid the fees, enjoyed the scenery, etc., and paid more taxes on every one of those things to boot. Who, exactly, do you think will be making up that shortfall?

Was the price of oil too high before? In my opinion, yes, it was. Did any of the people working on the patch set that price? No, they did not. It's a world market, kind of like the canola or beef market. In years past, when grain prices were low, or when BSE hit the cattle market, I do not ever recall hearing one person in the oil patch say, "serves them right!" I do remember talking to a lot of young local guys who are now farming, but back then were very glad to be able to get a well-paying job in the patch. If you talk to two or maybe three of your neighbours, you'll be talking to someone who either is involved in the oilfield, or has been in the past, or has kids who are. That's a large piece of the population and they deserve a bit more respect. They are out there whether it's hot or cold, wet or dry, doing what it takes to get the job done so that there is fuel to heat your home, put in your truck or car or tractor, or maybe your own big boat. If they're some of the unfortunate ones who have lost their job, all they're trying to do is get by until they can get back to work. They want to get back to work!

Next time you're in the warm coffee shop, give a bit of thought to why it's warm and how you get the gas in your vehicle to get there, and what you maybe should (or shouldn't) say.

Ross Woodward
Cut Knife, Sask.

All ages, abilities require housing

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the Feb. 23 letter to the editor, Seniors' needs deserve protection, regarding people other than seniors living in seniors housing.

In the great province of Alberta, those who are on AISH or Alberta Works are entitled to get into seniors housing. As a recipient of AISH and with a permanent developmental disability, I, Keith Bergquist, and Tammy Osguthorpe and other individuals with severe disabilities or low income should be able to get into seniors and sub-

sided housing as we don't have the funds to afford regular market housing and we, as a disabled community, are tired of those who complain.

There are some seniors in the community and the province of Alberta who don't understand the guidelines of the seniors and disabled housing community. Some of those people should realize that everyone, despite age or disability, should have the right to live in housing that is at affordable rates at 30 per cent income under CMHC guidelines. There is a lady in the

Elk Point housing community with severe ailments who is picked on by another senior because she isn't quite a senior citizen and I don't think it should be allowed under the Charter of Freedoms.

It gets to the point that I will be looking for seniors housing in central Alberta as some old people think they "own" the housing complex, when it is government-owned. Time for people to be educated on Alberta housing laws in Alberta.

Keith J. Bergquist
Tammy Osguthorpe
Elk Point

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Provincials

(Continued from Front Page)

Overtime!!! Marwayne came out flying and put the winner away within two minutes into OT. It was a disappointing loss for the Avalanche. For the next game, Elk Point traveled to Marwayne, down a player due to an injury. With only eight skaters, Elk Point got on the scoreboard first with a goal from Landon Malachoski assisted by Ceejay Quinney and Nic Penner. It wasn't until the second that Marwayne got two, which was enough to win the game. Final score, 2-1. There were no tears from the Atom No. 2 team. The players gave everything they had and it was a great series. Coaches and fans were very proud of how the entire team played and handled themselves. One word sums this team up, CLASS!!! Coach James Capjack would like to say thank you to everyone who was apart of this hockey team, especially the kids who made this year a fantastic experience. There were a lot of smiles at practices and games from both the parents and kids. That was great to see. The kids had a great season and should be proud of what they accomplished. Great job everyone and thanks!!

Midget Avalanche

Provost Midget Blades proved to be the best match for the Midget Avalanche, as they skated to a 6-6 tie with the host team in the third game of the provincial round robin, after a pair of disastrous games against Valleyview Ice Bears and Pincher Creek Huskies.

Brody 'the Big O' Odgaard, assisted by Chad 'Pick Pocket' Poitras scored the lone Elk Point marker against the Ice Bears, with goalie Shane 'Hercules' Hurtubise named the MVP.

'Awesome Alex' Hunter scored a pair and Dylan 'Dead Eye' Odgaard, Christian 'Wheels' Castle-Wassen and Carson 'Captain Crunch' Ference added singles in the Huskies game, off assists by 'Dead Eye' (3), 'The Big O' (3), 'Tricky Nick' Tucker, Bowen 'Craftsman' Krider and 'Warrior

Warren' Ference, with 'Captain Crunch' named the MVP in that game.

'The Big O' led the scoring against Provost with a hat trick, with a pair from 'Awesome Alex' and a single by 'Dead Eye'. Three assists by 'Awesome Alex,' two each by the 'Craftsman' and 'Dead Eye, and one each from 'Tricky Nick,' Cameron 'Bear' Baird and 'The Big O'. 'Dead Eye' was named the game's MVP.

Peewee Avalanche

Up north in Boyle, the Peewee Avs lost a 6-5 heartbreaker to Duchess Storm, with Duchess already up four goals before 'King Cole' Bendixen put the Avs on the scoreboard unassisted. Charlie 'Little Angel' Rogal, assisted by Jace 'the Stafford Streak,' and 'Lightning Liam' Ludlage, assisted by Evan 'Batman' Ockerman, narrowed the gap, with 'Lightning Liam' answering the final two Storm goals off assists by 'King Cole' and 'Batman,' but the clock ran out before they could muster a win or a tie. Jaden 'Jet Stream' Van Maarion was named the MVP in this one.

Their second game was against Clive Avalanche, and our own Avs were snowed under. 8 to 5. Two goals each for 'Lightning Liam' and 'Jet Steam' in this one, with the 'Little Angel' adding the fifth. Three assists for Matthew Quinney, two each for 'Jet Steam' and 'Lightning Liam' and one each from 'Little Angel,' 'King Cole' and Dallas 'Cowboy' Bristow, 'King Cole' was the game MVP.

The Avs saved the best for last, coming home with a 9-6 victory over the Tofield Titans, scoring no less than seven goals in the second period and two in the third. 'King Cole' was the king of shooters in this one, scoring four, with the 'Little Angel' adding two and 'Danny Boy' Cardinal, Kobe 'the Cobra' Warawa and 'Lightning Liam' contributing one apiece. Five assists by 'Lightning Liam,' two each by 'Lady Jadey' Capjack, 'Jet Stream' and 'King Cole,' 'the Cobra,' 'Cowboy' 'Little Angel' and 'the Stafford Streak' supplying one apiece. 'Jet Stream' was named the MVP.

Charges

(Continued from Page 2)

RCMP members from Bonnyville, Cold Lake, St Paul, Traffic Services, Elk Point and Police Dog Services converged on Fishing Lake to search for the suspects. A RCMP helicopter was also utilized in the search. A firearm was found in the suspect vehicle.

One male and two females were arrested, according to a press release issued March 7. A second press release

stated that three people were charged. Nineteen-year-old Austin Donald Crevier of Fishing Lake, was charged with two counts of pointing a firearm and one count of uttering threats. Enilda Roxanne Lewis, 19, of Frog Lake, is facing one count of obstruction of a peace officer and one count of public mischief. Both will appear in St. Paul provincial court on April 7.

Andy George Lacombe, 20, of Fishing Lake, was charged with one count each of dis-

charging a firearm with intent, flight from police, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, possession of a firearm contrary to a court order, resisting arrest, possession of a loaded prohibited while not authorized, unauthorized possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, one count of pointing a firearm, and one count of careless use of a firearm. Lacombe is currently arrested in Saskatchewan and will be transported back to Alberta for a yet undetermined first appearance date in court.

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL No. 19



HIGHLIGHTS

March 8, 2016 • Council Meeting

Fire Permits – Just a reminder that year round Fire Permits are required for all types of open burning within the County.

Annual Meeting – will be held on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Ashmont. The auditors will be in attendance to present the financial statements.

Volunteer Income Tax Program – Trained volunteers will be available to complete income tax returns for County and Town of Elk Point residents only, free of charge. You can drop your information off at the County Office or the Town of Elk Point Office and after the tax return is completed, you will receive a call to pick it up or it can be mailed back to you at your request. To find out if you qualify for this service or for more information, call 780-645-1950.

Planning and Development – Council approved Bylaw No. 2016-03 to license the undeveloped road allowance located between NE 22-57-10-W4 and NW 23-57-10-W4 for agricultural purposes.

Council also gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2016-07 to amend Section 7.7 of the Land Use Bylaw to allow towers that are constructed in accordance with CSA S37 to be set back from abutting parcels and roadways by a distance of 20 percent of the tower height or a distance between the tower base and guy wire anchors, whichever is greater. This Bylaw will replace Bylaw No. 2016-06 which received first reading at the February Council meeting. The new Bylaw has more rigid standards for the towers than the previous Bylaw did.

Ashmont Lagoon and Waste Water Transfer Station – Notices were sent to residents regarding the proposed expansion of the Ashmont lagoon, as per County policy. Council heard from a group of adjacent landowners who are concerned about the expansion of the Ashmont Lagoon. Administration will work with the Engineers to mitigate some of the concerns addressed by the residents. Council passed a motion to move ahead with 60% design for the project.

Coyote Reduction Incentive Program – to date the County has paid out on over 1300 coyotes. Administration is expecting that the money in the budget will run out by the end of March.

Funding Support:

- \$500 each to Elk Point Peewees, Bantams & Midgets to attend Provincial Hockey Tournaments
- \$1,000 – St. Lina Senior Dew Drop Inn Club for Transportation Grant
- \$2,500 – Sails, Rails & Tails 2016 Mega Geocache Event
- \$11,500 – Elk Point Curling Club – repairs to the ice plant

For more information contact
Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul
At 780-645-3301, ext 208

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Canadian Natural asks County for tax cut

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

Representatives from Canadian Natural Resources have requested the County of St. Paul consider a 30 per cent reduction in property taxes, given the current economic slump being seen in the oil and gas sector.

"Last year, 2015, was a pretty challenging year," said Cam Wietzel, with Canadian Natural, when speaking to council on March 8. "We're facing a crisis in our industry." He explained that in his area, which is more the gas side of things, property taxes make up about 20 per cent of operating costs.

He said he feels that Canadian Natural has shown its commitment to the community throughout the years, supporting a number of local causes. Right now, CNRL has 171 operators working in the area.

Although Canadian Natural has abandoned some wells in the area, there are still over 1,000 wells in the area. Since 2011, prices in the oil and gas sector have been on the decline. There was a bit of resurgence in 2013, said Wietzel, but those numbers have been dropping again.

In 2013, three of the major Canadian Natural projects in the County of St. Paul that Wietzel spoke about were sub economic. Although Wietzel was speaking more about the gas side of things, he said the oil side

was in a similar situation.

Right now, Canadian Natural is shutting down about 10 wells a week, said Andy Astalos, who is a superintendent also with Canadian Natural, but deals with the oil.

Following the presentation, Coun. Glen Ockerman offered some thoughts to the representatives. He explained that when prices were higher, and oil/gas companies were paying employees high wages, it proved difficult for the County of St. Paul to attract quality employees, which in turn resulted in a higher cost of doing business for the municipality, which calls for higher taxes.

"We had to increase taxes to continue to provide services," said Ockerman. "We were competing with industry every turn we went."

It was industry that drove up the municipality's costs. For example, finding plumbers and electricians was difficult since many were working in the oil/gas industry.

Ockerman did agree that Canadian Natural has been very supportive of the St. Paul community.

"There was a huge demand on people," said Wietzel, adding, many Canadian Natural employees are now taking pay cuts as the industry realigns itself.

Coun. Frank Sloan also commented on the delegation, saying, as a farmer, he has been through some

tough years, but in the end he always paid his taxes. The Sloan family has been raising cattle in the area for a number of years, he explained, adding, when BSE came around, it was hard to stay in the industry.

"We did what we could for the farmers, but they always paid their property taxes," said Sloan.

Wietzel said he did not want the request to come across as a threat, but the reality is that once projects become sub economic, they will be shut down. He said he felt it was his company's responsibility to share with the County of St. Paul where it stands.

CAO Sheila Kitz said that she has had conversations with some of Wietzel and Astalos' colleagues, and at time explained to them that it would be a good move for the oil/gas companies to be on the rural municipalities' side if changes take place in regards to linear assessments in the Municipal Government Act. The proposal is to split linear taxes between rural and urban municipalities.

"We're all caught between a rock and a hard place," said Kitz. She added that she believe rural municipalities do try to be good neighbours to urban municipalities, supporting them when they can. But if the changes occur, the difference in income from linear assessments will have to be made up in other ways.

A motion to defer the request to budget meetings was carried.

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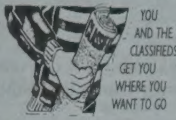
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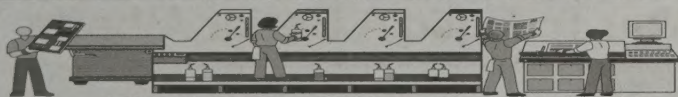
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Auction, March 24 in
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perimeter fences, lots of water
& surface lease revenue. Jerry
Hodge: 780-706-6652; Broker:
All West Realty Ltd.;
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5003. Real Estate Misc.

2237 +/- ACRES GRAZING
LEASE near MacKay, Alberta.
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
Unreserved Auction, April 27 in
Edmonton. 375 AUMs, natural
water throughout. Jerry Hodge:
780-706-6652; Broker: All
West Realty Ltd.;
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5 PARCELS OF Farmland
near Altario, Alberta. Ritchie
Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved
Auction, April 12 in Provost,
Alberta. Fenced land, natural
spring water. Contact Jerry
Hodge: 780-706-6652;
rbauction.com/realstate.

PASTURE & GRAZING Lease
near High Prairie, Alberta.
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
Unreserved Auction, April 27 in
Edmonton. 80 Acres Pasture &
2 Parcels Grazing Lease.
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Millet, Alberta. Ritchie Bros.
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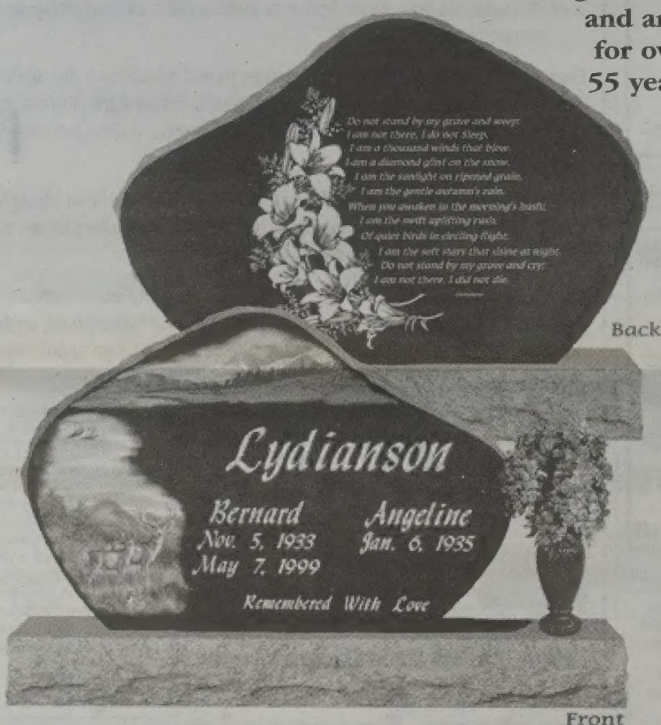
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Lisa Nielsen photo

IT'S TWINS... NO, MAKE THAT TRIPLETS! Lisa Nielsen was keeping an eye on expectant mama cows via her barn cam when she saw a new calf, then another... and "something odd. We walked her down to the headgate and as my employee was preparing to check her, out came the third calf." The healthy trio born to a 12-year-old cow includes two males and a female. Lisa and Murry Nielsen have been in the cow/calf business for years, starting in the 1980s and taking a 10-year break. For the past decade, they have worked at building a strong, solid herd of great calving cows. "It must be working, because at this time we have nine sets of twins and these triplets."

Alberta's NDP Caucus



Alberta's NDP Caucus – Working For You To Build A Better Alberta

- Diversifying our energy markets and pursuing a coherent and effective economic development strategy.
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